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## **The Register, 2004-03-18**

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## A&T athlete killed during spring break

BY GREGORY BOND  
Sports Editor

N.C. A&T players and coaches are still mourning the loss of one of their beloved teammates.

Herbert Lee Dixon III, a 20-year-old sophomore, was killed at the D&L Night Club at 2:30 a.m. in Benson, on Saturday, March 13.

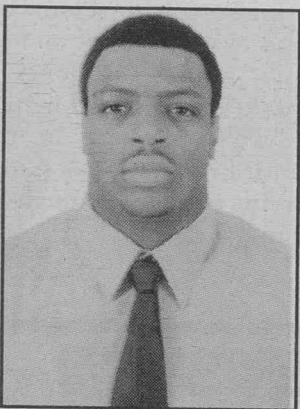
"He was a wonderful person," said Aggie head coach George Small. "He was very dedicated on the field and off the field."

Dixon was the only one who died at the scene. Two other people were shot at the time, but both were treated and released from the hospital. No arrests were made at press time. The police are investigating the incident.

"We are trying to use this as a building block," said teammate Shaun Jones. "We are trying to learn from this and try to not have something in the future happen like this to one of our teammates or to this Aggie family because it's so senseless that a young man like himself is killed in such a manner."

Tammy Amaon, a spokeswoman for the Johnston County Sheriff's

Please see **KILLED**, Page 2



Herbert Lee Dixon III

### Team bands together to help player's family

All funds raised by the team will help to bury Dixon

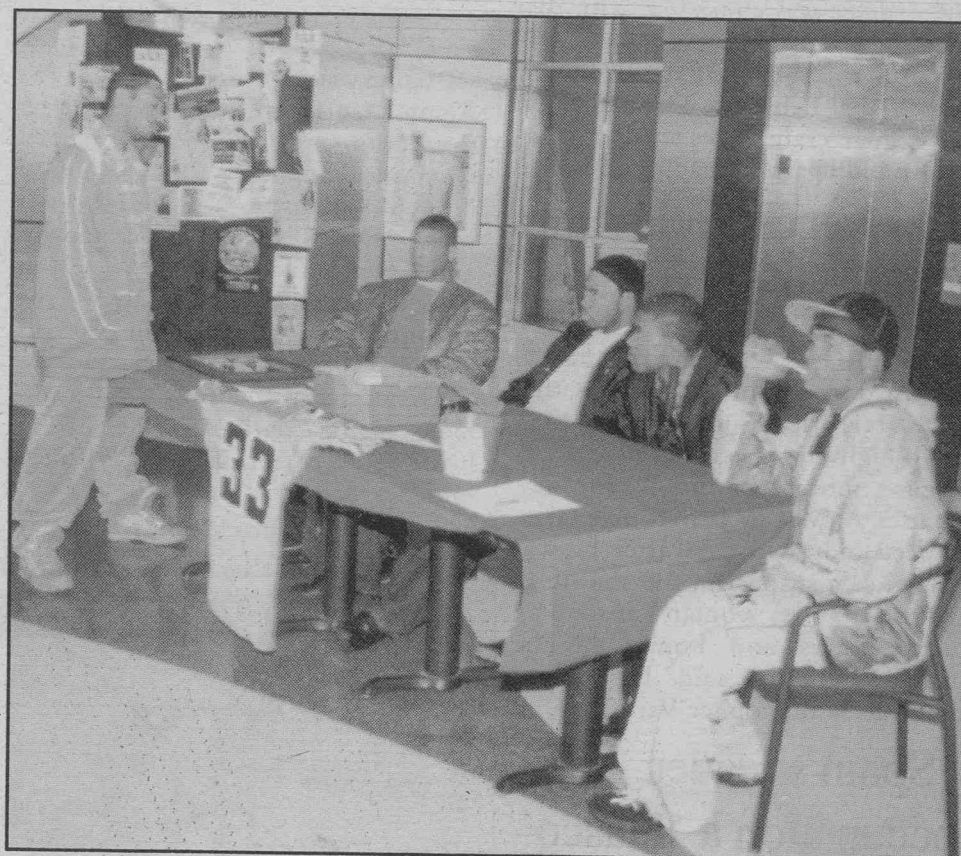
BY CHAD ROBERTS  
Staff Writer

Ask N.C. A&T football players about their team and they'll agree, is like one big family. That's why the news of linebacker Herbert Dixon being shot to death during spring break spread quickly among the players.

When the players returned to campus the following Monday, head football coach George Small called a meeting and informed the team that Dixon's surviving blood relatives lacked the resources to give Dixon a proper burial.

With the senior members of the team taking the initiative, Dixon's football family immediately went to work. Team members began taking turns manning tables and booths around the campus between classes to raise money for the Dixon family.

"His family was mainly his grandfather," senior linebacker Shaun



Chad Roberts/Staff Writer

N.C. A&T's football team is working together to raise money for Dixon's family in order to help with funeral expenses.

Jones said. "His grandfather raised him. He (Herbert) has an 11-month old son and they don't have any insurance, so we're trying to raise money to pay for his funeral to bury him in a way that would be respectful as an Aggie," Jones said.

In the downstairs lobby of Williams Cafeteria, Dixon's gold number 33 jersey hung off the edge of a table where four football players sat. In front of them were two jars with Dixon's picture and the

words "Help us bury our teammate" scribbled in pencil. In the middle of the table, a Nike shoebox quickly started to fill with dollar bills.

"It's just been a great way for the football team to come together for this tragic cause," freshman Curtis Walls said.

By the mid-morning of March 17, without the help of mainstream radio and television outlets, the team had raised hundreds of dol-

Please see **TEAM**, Page 2

## Are nightclubs becoming more prone to violence?

BY ERICA FRANKLIN  
Register Contributor

Many Triad college students attend night clubs within the city of Greensboro. It is not uncommon to either be a part of or witness some sort of violence or unlawful act. Students need to prepare themselves for the unexpected and be safe.

Fights, assaults, drug use, underage drinking, drunkenness, property damage, larceny, vandalism and auto thefts are crimes that may take place in or near night clubs.

According to the Crime Analysis Section of the Greensboro Police Department, from Feb. 23, 2003, to Jan. 19, 2004, there were 87 reported inci-

dences where someone called to report a crime or disturbance. Police said these complaints were in the area of these three clubs: Rumba Latina, Enigma and Greensboro Ballroom. Larceny, suspicious activity, public disorder and fights were the most common reasons why people called the police.

People fight over an ex, space, drinks, parking spots or unfinished business that occurred outside of the club. Club owners have to deal with damaged furniture, walls and floors. Cars are stolen or either broken into.

"Since I pay sometimes five to ten dollars to get in the club, I expect adequate security," said A&T sophomore Zeb High. "There has been many times when I have went to the club and it got

shut down after an hour or two due to fighting or other violence. I did not get my money's worth. If security did a better job, then the clubs would be open longer and people would get their money's worth," he said.

Club goers want to mingle and have a good time. They want to be able to dance and party for the amount of time advertised. Club owners make money and club goers just want a nice social environment.

While making money, many club owners realize the problems with crime that may occur on their premises. Clubs have chosen to implement security and some type of method to control the distribu-

Please see **SAFETY**, Page 3

## A&T junior dies in Ghana

FROM A PRESS RELEASE

A N.C. A&T junior died in Kumasi, Ghana, Tuesday. Autopsy reports are not available for 21-year-old Julia Scott of Winston-Salem, who was a honor student, majoring in mechanical engineering.

In February, Scott left the university for a semester-long, engineering internship at the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana, on the western coast of Africa. Since 1995, with the assistance of ALCOA, A&T has had a collaborative engineering exchange program with the university in Kumasi. Over 30 students, faculty and administrators from A&T have participated in this program with a dozen students from Kumasi.

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Spring art show coming soon  
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Cheerleaders win 2004 MEAC title  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Baghdad blast kills several

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A large explosion destroyed a hotel in central Baghdad on Wednesday night, killing up to 10 people, Iraqi police said. A U.S. soldier at the scene said the damage was consistent with that of a car bomb. Rescuers pulled bodies from the rubble of the five-story Hotel Jabal Lebanon. The explosion left a huge crater. Five smaller, adjacent buildings were badly damaged.

## Las Vegas Police nab Ohio sniper suspect

LAS VEGAS - The man suspected in two dozen sniper shootings that have terrorized motorists along Ohio highways was arrested at a Las Vegas motel early Wednesday. Charles A. McCoy Jr., 28, was taken into custody two days after he was named as a suspect in the shootings that left one woman dead and pierced cars and homes in the Columbus area, said Las Vegas police Lt. Christopher Van Cleef.

## Spain's leader: Iraq occupation a 'Fiasco'

MADRID, Spain - Spain's new leader intensified his criticism of the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq on Wednesday, saying it was "turning into a fiasco." Prime Minister-elect Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero also refused to reconsider his pledge to pull his 1,300 troops out of Iraq by June 30, in a sharp break with the Bush administration.

## Kerry criticizes Bush for failed policies

WASHINGTON - Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on Wednesday marked the first anniversary of the war in Iraq by criticizing President Bush for failed policies "with no end in sight" as Vice President Dick Cheney defended the administration.

"Today we know that the mission is not finished, hostilities have not ended, and our men and women in uniform fight on almost alone with the target squarely on their backs," Kerry said at George Washington University. "Every day they face danger and death from suicide bombers, roadside bombers, and now, ironically, from the very Iraqi police they are training."

## Israel kills 4 in stepped-up Gaza raids

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Israeli helicopters fired two missiles into a crowd of suspected gunmen in a Palestinian refugee camp Wednesday, killing four people in a stepped-up campaign to root out militants in the Gaza Strip. Two unarmed teenage boys and one militant were among the dead, Palestinian officials said.

Briefs from Associated Press wire reports.

## KILLED

Continued from page 1

department, was quoted by the Associated Press, "There was some kind of confrontation on the dance floor, and then shots were exchanged. We have problems there all the time with disturbances breaking out when they close."

Dixon was not believed to be involved in the scuffle and was apparently was a bystander, Small said.

Dixon was a huge part of the Aggie Blue Death Defense, helping the team to win the MEAC Championship in 2003, and a NCAA I-AA playoff berth that year. Dixon recorded 76 tackles and four interceptions, which helped him to be selected to the Second Team All-MEAC in 2003, as a linebacker for the Aggies.

"He was very talented," said teammate Osita Alaribe. "He had a heart of a warrior. Everybody liked him."

His teammates and coaches showed their emotion at losing more than just a teammate.

"Naturally it's like losing a brother and a teammate and it's tough," said Small.

"Herb was always energetic, fun-loving motivating type of guy," added Jones. "When we had situations in games, when we were down, he was our motivator. He was the one who picked our spirits up. I think he was a big part of the 2003 MEAC Championship."

Some of Dixon's teammates came inside Williams Cafeteria to showed support for the Dixon family by accepting donations to help with family expenses.

"His grandfather raised him," said Jones, who was accepting donations for Dixon's funeral. "He has an 11-month-old son and they have no insurance. We are trying to just raise money for his funeral so we can bury him in a way that will be respectable as an Aggie."

The funeral is on Saturday March 20, at Clinton High School in Clinton, at 2 p.m.

## TEAM

Continued from page 1

lars. Even more noteworthy, the primary contributors to the fundraiser are cash-strapped college students.

"I just want to thank the student body, because they have truly meant a great deal to us these past couple of days," Walls said.

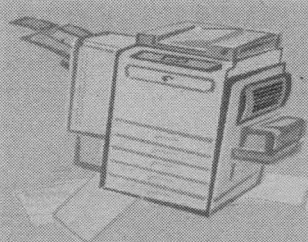
"We didn't have to do a whole lot of begging. We just put up the sign and people started coming and they didn't even know Herb. It's really being appreciated," he said.

Walls said the team hoped to set up additional tables and places to donate around campus before the end of the week.

Jones was a senior on the team and was Dixon's mentor. He said any money students or faculty could spare would help.

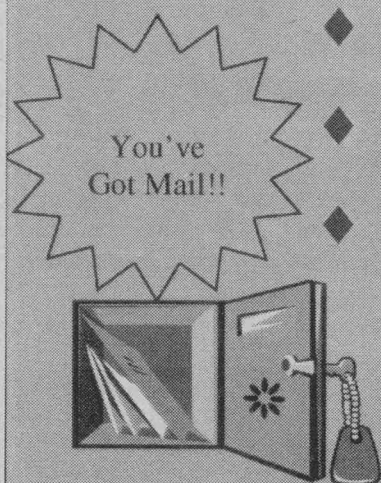
"We'll be here in the cafeteria until Friday," Jones said. "We're just trying to raise as much money as we can."

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# Students gear up for NABJ

By TIA BRACEY  
Register Contributor

The National Association of Black Journalists, NABJ, will be arriving at the campus of N.C. A&T Mar. 24-27, for the 12th annual Broadcast Short Course seminar.

NABJ is an organization of journalists, students and media-related professionals that provides quality journalism programs and services and it advocates on behalf of black journalists worldwide. NABJ will be offering a three-day seminar designed to acquaint African American college students with behind-the-scenes jobs in the broadcast industry.

The NABJ Student Broadcast Short Course aims at encouraging more African American journalism students to pursue television management as a career. The project gives students the opportunity to interact with African Americans who currently work as news directors, producers, writers, assignment editors, directors and at some of the top television stations in the country.

Students from across the country submitted applications, and this year the journalism and mass communication department faculty selected 38 students. Twenty-six of the students are from A&T. Twelve students will be visiting from other universities including Winston-Salem State and Hampton Universities. Students must be prepared to enter an industry-oriented atmosphere ready to work, learn, network, and become leaders.

The theme for the three-day seminar is "Minority Leadership in the Newsroom." Students will be attending workshops that

instruct them on "Newswriting the NABJ way," "Production Techniques," "The New Journalism," and others. During the seminar, students will produce a 30-minute newscast to demonstrate skills they have acquired over the years and from professionals at the seminar. This newscast will air Saturday, Mar. 27 on WXII-TV, channel 12 at 7:00 p.m.

The seminar will culminate with a banquet that will host Sedmel Estes-Sumpter as a guest speaker. Estes-Sumpter is a graduate from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees. She is a seasoned journalist with more than 25 years of experience, and was included in Ebony magazine's list of 100 Most Influential Black

Americans and Organizations. In 1991, she made history by becoming the first woman president of the National Association of Black Journalists. Currently, she is the Executive Producer for Good Day Atlanta and WAGA-TV Fox 5 News. Other professionals that will attend the Broadcast Short Course seminar include: Heather Abraham, WAGT-TV (Augusta, GA); Lawrence Coleman (Atlanta); Mike Dunston WTVD-TV, (Raleigh/Durham); and Ted Holtzclaw WABC-TV, (New York, NY).

The banquet will be held in the Dudley Room at 7:30 p.m.

For tickets contact the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at 334-7900. For any questions, contact Nagatha Tonkins at 334-7221.

## A&T

Continued from page 1

"Our hearts certainly go out to the Scott Family and to the College of Engineering," said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Roselle Wilson. "We are working very closely with the U.S. Embassy and the appropriate international agencies to assist the family with all the necessary protocol."

Chancellor James C. Renick said, "We are all deeply saddened by this news. The University stands behind the Scott Family to support them in whatever way possible."

A&T's counselors are available for students, faculty and staff. A campus/community memorial service for Scott and other A&T students who have died this academic year will be held at 5 p.m., March 22, in the Stallings Ballroom of Memorial Union.

## SAFETY

Continued from page 1

tion of alcoholic beverages (whether it be wristbands or stamps). "Security helps out a lot."

Some even pat you down. This aids the police. Yet, wristbands for drinkers can be taken off and passed on to others, just as stamps can be rubbed on to other people's hands," said Greensboro Police Officer Jeanna Thomas.

"I do not feel security is doing the best job possible, but they do help out," said W. A. Morton, another Greensboro police officer.

He feels security guards need more training in order to do a better job. As most college students know, most of the security guards that work at the doors are usually strong, tough athletes. "Many nightclubs foster that image by hiring oversized, ex-football players or college wrestlers to handle drunken or out-of-control patrons. Usually these bouncers have little experience and receive no real training," said Chris E. McGoe, a.k.a. The Crime Doctor, an internationally known author and security expert.

To keep safe, club owners and club goers need to take precautions. Here are a few.

- \* Club owners could place parking lot surveillance to cut down the number of automobile thefts and vandalism cases, but they have their own discretion.

- \* Owners could also put or use some type of metal detector to prevent weapons from entering into the club.

- \* A person should hide all of their belongings in the car.

- \* Do not leave your pocketbook, cell phones, or money laying around.

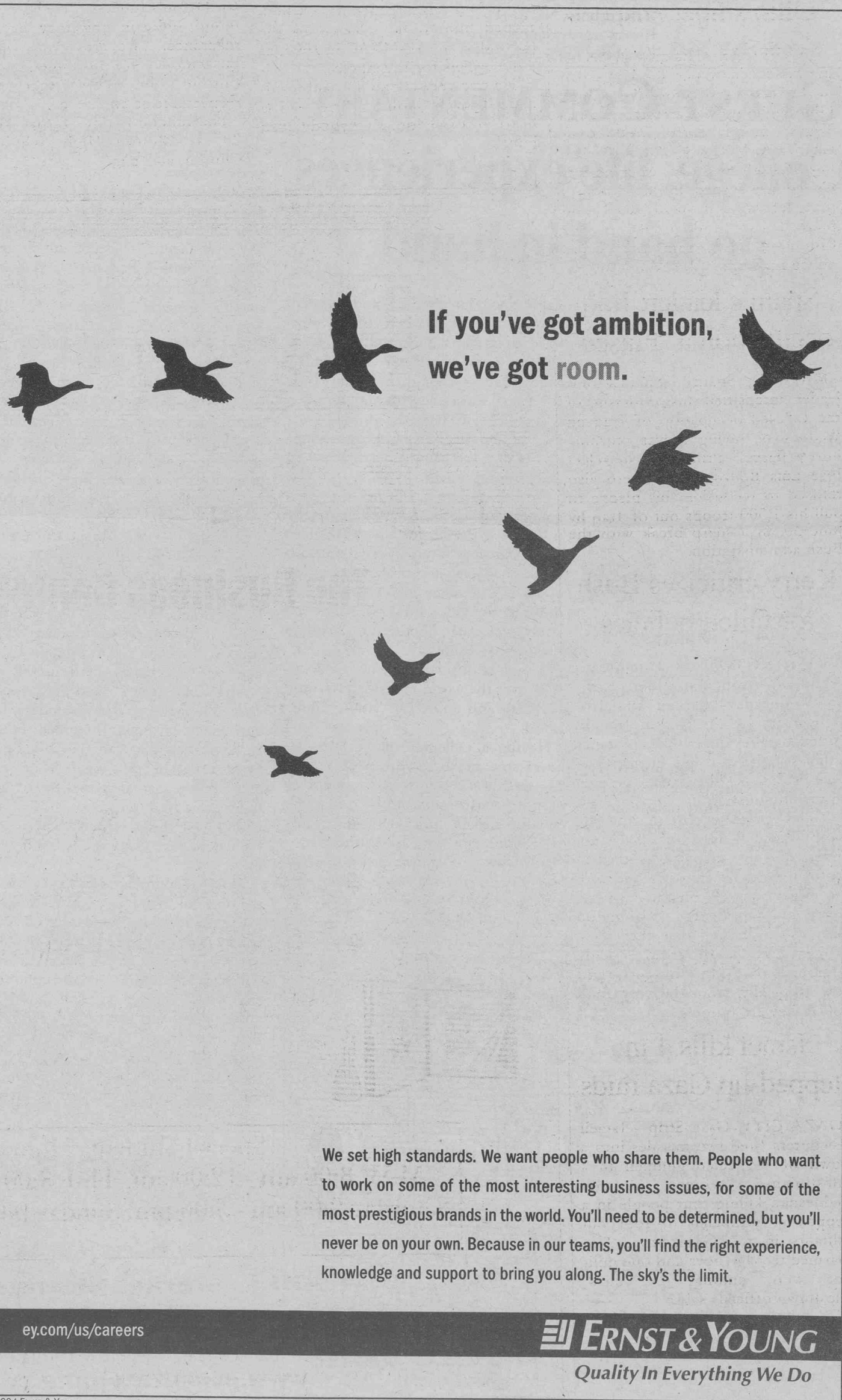
- \* "Go out with people you know, and be aware of everything around you," said Officer Thomas.

- \* Never go to the club alone.

- \* Keep your friends around you.

- \* Do not drink if you are underage.

- \* If you are 21 or older, try to limit your drinks.



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Valerie Nieman, faculty adviser

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Editorials reflect the opinions of the A&amp;T Register but not necessarily those of the university.

Views in guest commentaries and letters to the editor are those of the writer.

**THE A&T REGISTER**

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## GUEST COMMENTARY

# College, life experiences go hand in hand

BY CALVIN F. WILLIAMS, JR.

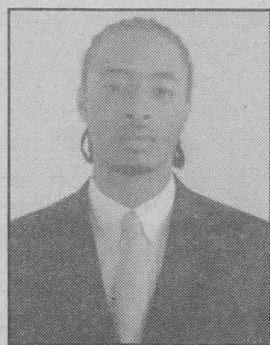
Sit back and think for a moment. "Where would you be without your college experience?"

"Where would you be at this very moment had you not graduated from high school and come to college?"

I know where I would be. I would be back home in Maryland at my parent's house watching television and working at Best Buy 30 to 40 hours a week. Probably just going to the movies and hanging out. We have to appreciate what college has done for us.

I came into college and joined several organizations, professional and recreational. I had the opportunity to surround myself with a peer group that was determined for success.

Where else, other than college, can you find so many positive African-Americans in one place having a good time and striving for success? How



**Calvin F. Williams, Jr.**

many times have we, as students, had numerous obligations to fulfill, went to a party, came back and completed all the responsibilities? How many times have we thought we were ready for a test, but ended up failing?

In college, we have the ability to test our boundaries, expand our wings and be on our own to become young black professionals.

Furthermore, we can set our own guidelines and schedules while having time for everything that we want to do in our lives. Only in an institution of higher learning can you define yourself and your life. Due to our mutual struggles in our fields of study, we come together and become the best of friends.

We are in a position where we can take over the world and still have time to party and enjoy our young adulthood.

Having a college experience is an extra step in life to prepare one for his or her future. Please remember that these are some of the best years in your life. Do not take it for granted and imagine your life without it!

*Williams is a junior, computer science major, secretary of the Student Government Association and a candidate for SGA president.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Preserving access, quality remain UNC's priority

BY J. BRADLEY WILSON

In considering tuition proposals for 2004-05, the UNC Board of Governors is striving to strike a balance that ensures affordable access to our 16 campuses for North Carolina residents and sustains academic excellence.

Low tuition without high quality is no bargain.

Tuition decisions are among the hardest facing the governing boards of public universities, and rightfully so. Higher education has never been more important to our economic future, and funding decisions we make now will affect our state's educational progress for years to come.

As chair of the Board of Governors, I have spent a considerable amount of time traveling to our campuses and talking with faculty, students, administrators, and staff. I have seen and heard compelling evidence of the erosion of quality that is occurring in our University at an unacceptable pace. Based on this experience and after reading hundreds of student anecdotes compiled by the UNC Association of Student Governments, I am convinced that the quality of a UNC education is now at risk. In a sense, this tuition debate is really about whether we are going to permit the erosion of the quality of public higher education in this state.

Over the past three years, University-wide enrollment has grown by more than 20,000 students, to 183,000. That is akin to adding the student body of East Carolina University, along with the faculty and student services needed to support it. Nearly 7,000 additional students are expected to enroll this fall.

While the Governor and the General Assembly have provided funding for enrollment growth, increased need-based financial aid, and other Board priorities in recent years—and we are very grateful for that support—these new funds have been largely offset by cuts elsewhere in the University's budget and by required reversions and withholdings.

During this time of dramatic growth, the state dollars we have had available to spend per budgeted student have actually dropped by about 8 percent, or \$700 per student, resulting in larger classes, fewer course sections, and disruption of students' graduation schedule.

We know that many students and their families have been hard hit by the state's struggling economy. We are all in agreement that tuition should not become a major source of funding public higher

education in this state. That is why the Board of Governors called for a one-year freeze on tuition rates last year, even in the face of growing enrollment demand and repeated state budget cuts. The legislature ultimately imposed a 5-percent increase.

According to the latest national statistics, in 2003-04 UNC tuition and fee charges for in-state students actually became more affordable relative to peer institutions across the country. These findings are consistent with a recent study by the State Education Assistance Authority, which concluded that despite rising tuition, the University remains affordable for North Carolina residents.

The creation and expansion of the UNC Need-Based Aid Program is largely responsible for this development. In approving previous campus-initiated tuition increases, our Board has insisted that adequate need-based aid be set aside to offset the impact of higher tuition on needy North Carolina students.

The quality of a university is built on its faculty, and the lack of state funding for salary increases in recent years has placed UNC at a growing competitive disadvantage. The tuition sought by our campuses this year to support faculty salaries would not even bring us to the average of our peer institutions, and our faculty benefits also lag far behind those offered by our peers.

Clearly, we will be hard pressed to maintain the quality of education that North Carolinians expect and deserve without additional revenues.

We agree wholeheartedly with Governor Easley and others that salary funds and other basic support for UNC should come from the state's General Fund. While we are hopeful that North Carolina may be in a better fiscal position in 2004, there is little hope that the state can meet all our needs in another tight budget year. In fact, within the past two weeks the state budget office has asked the University to provide scenarios of how we would exact permanent cuts to our operating budgets of up to 3 percent, or approximately \$50 million.

One thing is certain. If North Carolina is to rebuild and strengthen its economy, it cannot afford to lessen its historic commitment to affordable access to our 16 campuses, and it cannot afford to let the quality of a UNC education erode further. Low tuition without high quality is no bargain.

*J. Bradley Wilson is chairman of the UNC Board of Governors.*



## Letters to the editor

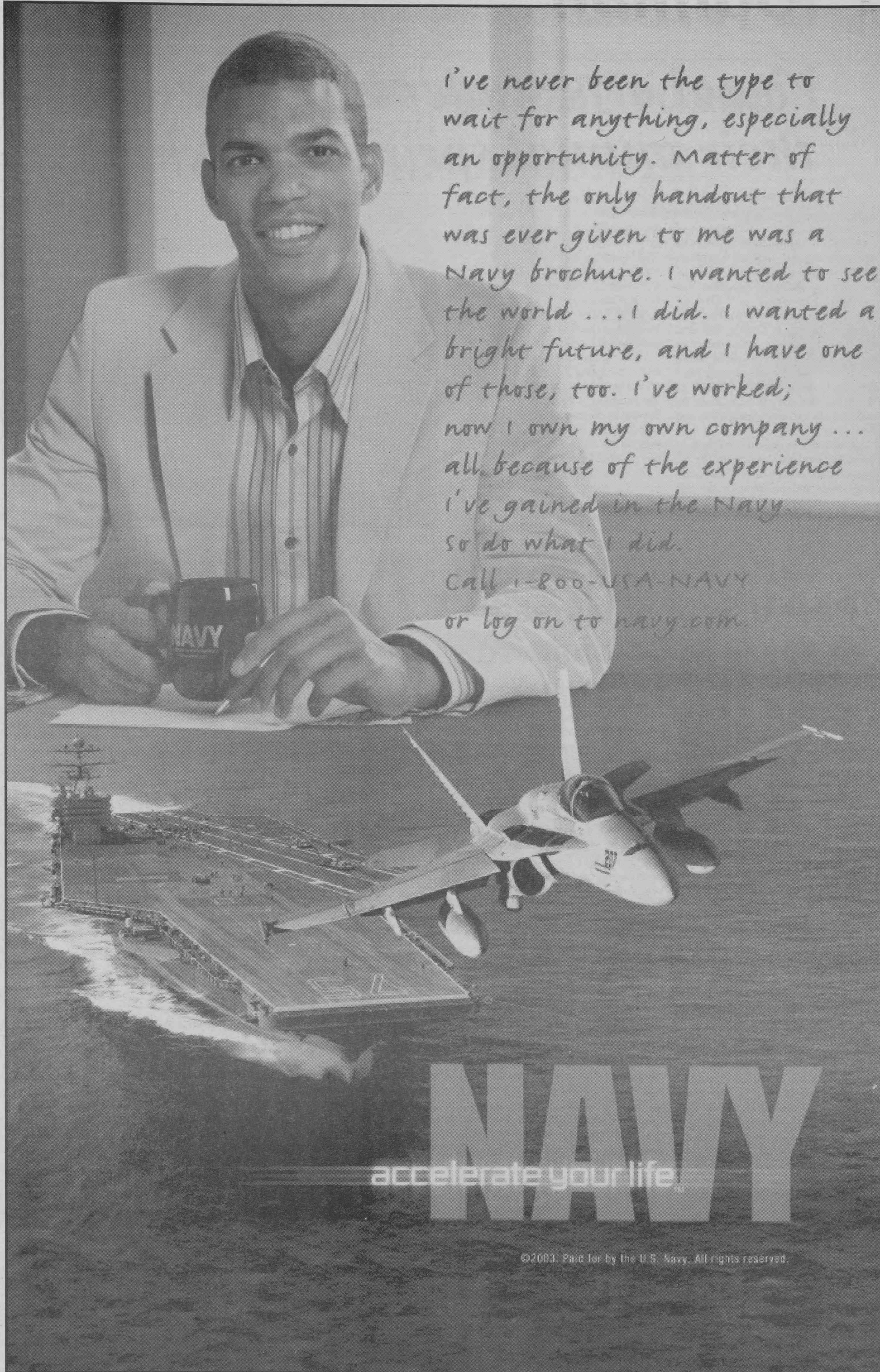
are welcomed by e-mail at register@ncat.edu

or by mail to N.C. A&T State University, Box E-25,

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Letters must be signed and should include an address and telephone number.



A black and white photograph of a young man with short dark hair, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a light-colored suit jacket over a striped shirt. He is sitting at a desk, holding a dark mug with the word "NAVY" on it in his right hand and a pen in his left hand, resting it on a piece of paper. In the foreground, there is a model of a Navy aircraft carrier and a Navy fighter jet. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

*I've never been the type to wait for anything, especially an opportunity. Matter of fact, the only handout that was ever given to me was a Navy brochure. I wanted to see the world ... I did. I wanted a bright future, and I have one of those, too. I've worked; now I own my own company ... all because of the experience I've gained in the Navy. So do what I did. Call 1-800-USA-NAVY or log on to navy.com.*

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# Visual arts students prepare for their annual spring art exhibit

BY ERICA FRANKLIN  
Register Contributor

On March 19, the Department of Visual and Performing Arts will begin its Annual Spring Art Exhibition with an opening reception from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The show is entitled, "Expertise: The Simplistic Expression of Design." Artwork will be displayed in The H.C. Taylor Art Gallery in Dudley Hall until April 16. This event gives students a chance to "show off" their special talents.

This exhibition is dedicated to A&T professor, LeAnder Canady. Students of the Visual Arts Department chose to honor Canady for being a great leader and role model.

"It is an honor to dedicate this show to a professor who has been there for me throughout my college career," said graduating senior and president of the Art Circle, Teddy Petree. The Art Circle is an art organization on campus that drives to promote the appreciation and awareness of visual artists and their cultural and aesthetic role at N.C. A&T.

There are two categories for the art-

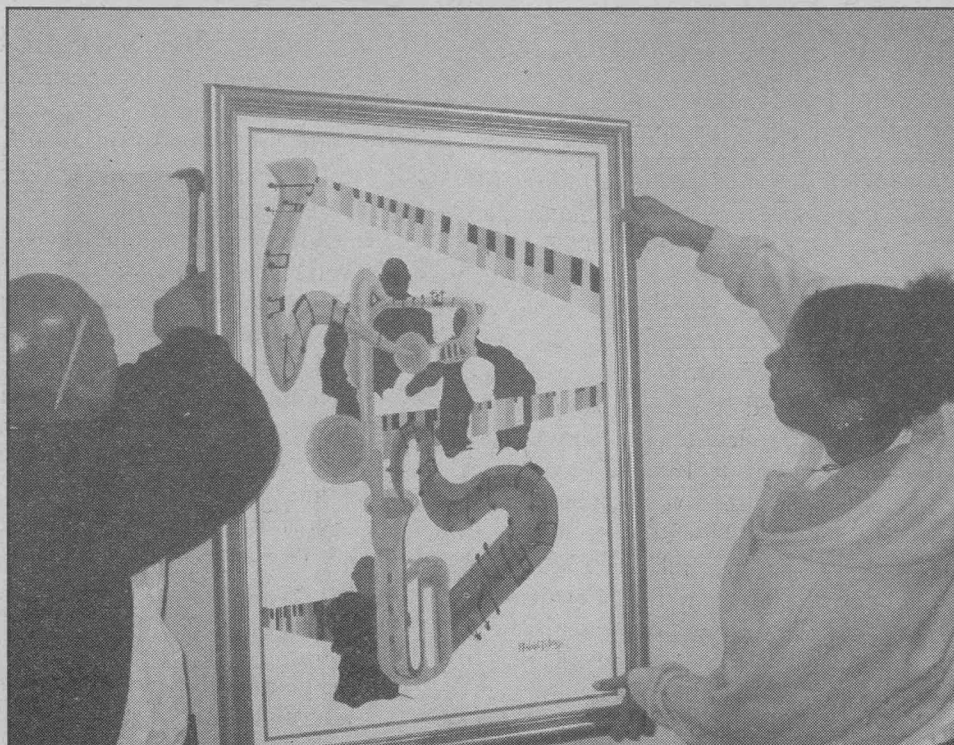
work: two-dimensional media and three-dimensional media. Two-dimensional media includes paintings, drawings, graphic design and graphic printmaking. Three-dimensional media consist of ceramics and sculptures. Each category will be given three awards, ranging from first to third place.

Any art major, full or part-time, could have entered their work. The deadline for submission of artwork was March 15.

All of the artwork submitted had to be from the Spring Semester of 2003 and after. The artwork also had to meet a certain criterion for the exhibition. Each participant in the two-dimensional category had to submit six works and each participant in the three-dimensional category had to submit three works.

For some students, this is their final time to display their work for their beloved peers and professors.

"As a graduating senior, this event means a lot to me because it's the last time I will have to share my talent with fellow students and faculty at A&T," said Petree.



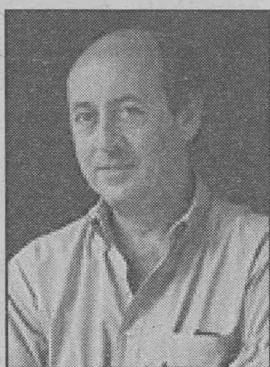
Sharonda Eggleton/Photo editor

**Art professor Willie Hooker and senior visual art major Renate Dubose set up a display for her artwork, "Take 3."**

## Past U.S. poet laureate to speak in Greensboro

FROM A PRESS RELEASE

GREENSBORO - Billy Collins, the U.S. poet laureate from 2001-2003, will read from his works on Sunday, April 4, at 3 p.m. at the Carolina Theatre in downtown Greensboro. Collins' visit is part of PoetryGSO, the Greensboro Public Library's first month-long celebration of poetry honoring poet Randall Jarrell. The program is free and open to the public.



**Billy Collins**

Collins has been called an American phenomenon. His last three collections of poems have broken sales records for poetry. His readings are usually standing room only, and his audience - enhanced by his appearances on National Public Radio - includes people of all backgrounds and age groups.

Collins writes poems that address such contemplative issues as childhood, barking dogs and forgetfulness. Fellow poet Edward Hirsch has called Collins "an American original - a metaphysical poet with a funny bone and a sly, questioning intelligence."

"Having Billy Collins here in Greensboro is incredible," said Steve Sumerford, assistant director of the Greensboro Public Library and project director of PoetryGSO. "His poetry is so accessible for so many people because he writes about things we can all relate to. Even people who say they dislike poetry can find humor and enjoyment in his poems."

Collins' program at the Carolina Theatre will include a dramatic presentation by the Touring Theater Ensemble featuring an excerpt from Randall Jarrell's poem "The Bat-Poet" and a poem from Winston-Salem poet Evie Shockley, whose work is included

in an anthology edited by Billy Collins. Music will be provided by Ed Whitfield.

Collins has published seven collections of poetry, including Questions About Angels, The Art of Drowning, Picnic, Lightning, Taking Off Emily Dickinson's Clothes, Sailing Alone Around the Room: New & Selected Poems, and Nine Horses. In the book he edited, Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry, Collins' goal was to make it easy for high school students to hear or read a poem on each of the 180 days of the school year. "Listening to poetry can encourage students and other learners to become members of the circle of readers for whom poetry is a vital source of pleasure," Collins writes about Poetry 180 on Library of Congress Web site.

Collins' work has appeared in The New Yorker, The Paris Review and The American Scholar. Included among the honors he has received are fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Guggenheim Foundation.

He has also been awarded the Oscar Blumenthal Prize, the Bess Hokin Prize, the Frederick Bock Prize, and the Levinson Prize - all awarded by Poetry magazine. He has been a writer-in-residence at Sarah Lawrence College, and served as a Literary Lion of the New York Public Library. He is now serving as the New York State Poet Laureate.

In addition to Collins' visit, PoetryGSO will include dozens of poetry events, including poetry slams, poetry readings and poetry-writing workshops. For more information, visit [www.poetrygso.org](http://www.poetrygso.org) or pick up a copy of the Library's monthly newsletter, Check It Out, from any GPL location.

The newsletter can also be downloaded from the Library's Web site, [www.greensborolibrary.org](http://www.greensborolibrary.org).

PoetryGSO is made possible by the generosity of the N.C. Humanities Council, the United Arts Council, the Greensboro Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Greensboro Public Library.

## Michael Ray Charles to visit UNCG art museum

African-American artist Michael Ray Charles, who is known for his graphically styled paintings that investigate racial stereotypes drawn from American advertising, radio jingles and other sources, will visit the Weatherspoon Art Museum at UNCG on March 23 at 5:30 p.m.

For more information about Charles, visit [www.pbs.org/art21/artists/charles/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/art21/artists/charles/index.html).

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# Aggies lose in opening round, ending season at 3-25

By JULIUS MCKINLEY JR.  
Register Contributor

Chakowby Hicks scored a team-high 19 points to lead Norfolk State (12-16) to a 58-43 victory over N.C. A&T (3-25) in the play-in round in the MEAC men's basketball tournament in Richmond, Va.

Hicks shot 10-for-11 from the foul line, dropped off 10 assists and grabbed three steals in leading the Spartans to victory and a second-round game against Delaware State.

The Aggies struggled with Norfolk State's trapping defense and committed 18 turnovers and shot only 27.1 percent from the field for the entire game. They also forced the Spartans to 18 turnovers as well.

"We wanted to make sure we did a better job of taking care of the ball," Norfolk State head coach Dwight Freeman said. "We still had 18 turnovers, which were four or five more than I wanted."

Brian Falcoun, the starting point guard for the Aggies, did not play because of personal reasons. Without him on the floor, it was hard for the Aggies to get into the flow of things on the offensive end.

"He's quick," said Freeman. "He might be the quickest guard in the league. Without him in the line-up, it took away some of the quick things that they were able to do," he added.

"He's what creates our tempo," N.C. A&T head coach Jerry Eaves said. "We missed him a lot and we

just couldn't score, and when you can't score you can't win in Division I basketball."

Freshman Sean Booker led the Aggies with 25 points on 10-for-15 shooting from the field. Greg Roberts was the second leading scorer for the Aggies with six points.

Chris Ferguson grabbed eight rebounds for the Aggies, who trailed 30-15 at halftime while shooting a dismal 27 percent from the floor. The Aggies shot 2-for-21 from three-point range and trailed by as many as 22 points in the first half.

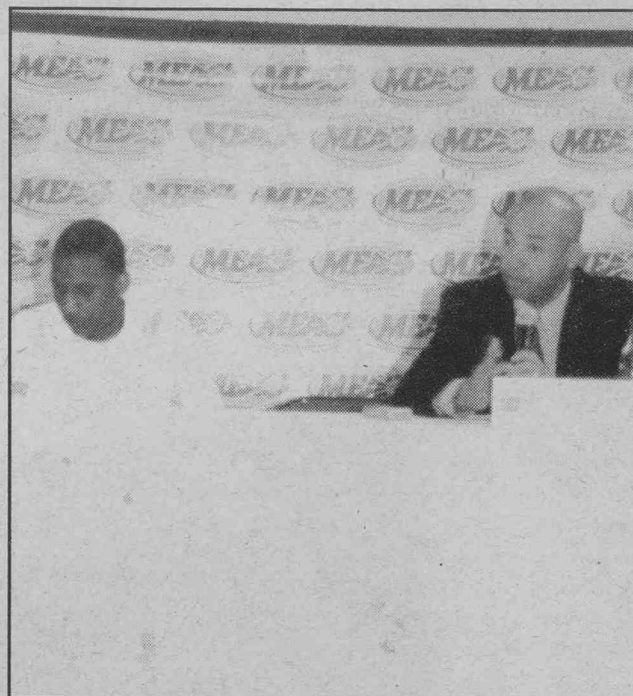
Kendrick Ogunridge notched a double-double for the Spartans in scoring 12 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Derrick Smith also chipped in with 11 points.

Norfolk State only got 10 points from its bench, but the Spartans starters outscored A&T's starting five 48-10.

The N.C. A&T men ended their season at 3-25. The Aggies have a bright future ahead of them for next year with a good recruiting class and everyone returning except for two seniors.

Florida A&M won the MEAC men's tournament and will be playing in the NCAA championships.

The Aggie women also lost in the first round of the MEAC event to UMES. The Hampton University Lady Pirates won the women's title.



Chad Roberts/Staff Writer

Sean Booker (left) talks about his 25-point performance during the MEAC press conference while Coach Jerry Eaves looks on.

## Aggie cheerleaders regain MEAC championship title

By CHAD ROBERTS  
Staff Writer

RICHMOND, Va. - The men's basketball team couldn't do it. The Lady Aggies, down to only seven players, couldn't do it either. Before the first full day of competition was over, both A&T basketball teams had been knocked out of the MEAC championship tournament.

Without a team to cheer for, the A&T cheerleading squad could have followed the basketball teams and returned to Greensboro Monday night after a disappointing day of tournament competition. Instead, the group of 19 stayed on through the week for their own chance to win a MEAC title.

The decision to stay paid off, and on the following Saturday the judges at the MEAC cheerleading competition crowned A&T as the top overall squad in 2004. The Aggie cheerleaders also won first place in the co-ed division, a feat they last accomplished in 2002.

"It feels really good to go out as MEAC champions," senior Kevette Patterson said. "It was a good year."

By many accounts, it was a long year as well. The 2004 MEAC cheerleading queens (and kings) started practice in early August in Greensboro's hot and humid conditions. Led by coaches Adjoa Botwe, Keda Strickland and advisor Gail Cobb, cheerleading camp got the squad ready for the first game of the year, the annual Aggie-Eagle Classic in Raleigh on Aug. 31.

"It was tiring," senior Rosetta Davidson said of the weeklong training all the cheerleaders went through before school opened. "We had three practices a day starting at six in the morning and ending at six or seven in



Chad Roberts/Staff Writer

N.C. A&T's cheerleaders celebrate after winning the 2004 MEAC cheerleading competition in Richmond on March 13.

the evening. We had some breaks, but for the most part it was conditioning, weight training and cheers."

"We had slight breaks," DeMarques Coleman said. "It was 15 minutes, throw some water in your mouth, spit it out and run."

Unlike other sports, cheerleading goes virtually all year long. Injuries are a part of all athletic activities, and cheering is no exception. En route to winning this year's conference championship, the squad had to overcome a knee injury to Shapera Knight as well as hand injuries to Davidson and Travis Price.

Finding adequate practice facilities in Richmond also presented a problem. Away from the friendly confines of Holt Hall gym, the cheering squad had to do a lot of improvising for practice space in the days leading up to the competition. One of the squad members used her connections to secure a gym for two days, but other times the team had to make do with whatever they had.

"We had to wake up at seven in the morning to run back and forth in the parking lot (of the hotel) to condition ourselves," Patterson said.

"Finding a place to practice," Davidson said. "Even though we had

the gym, the time that we had it didn't always agree with us."

To add to the tension and drama of the competition, the A&T cheerleaders were also engaged in a verbal feud with the UMES squad through the week. According to Davidson and Patterson, the problem originated when a former A&T cheering coach left Greensboro to work at UMES and took the Aggie cheers with him, which he soon adapted to fit the Fighting Hawks of UMES.

"They think they're better than us, and that's where the beef came from," Davidson explained. "All week, they were talking junk, giving us the finger - they were nasty."

But in the end, the good guys (and girls) won. In the co-ed division, A&T beat out Norfolk State to claim the trophy. In the overall competition, with a year's worth of bragging rights at stake, the Aggies won again. Morgan State, the 2002 champion, finished second and the Norfolk State squad finished third.

Travonna Niles is credited with developing the routine that won A&T the championship.

"Travonna came up with the blueprint of the original routine. When it came to practice we altered it to fit the squad, but it was basically her idea," Kaliem Calien said.

Calien and Kimberly Williams were both selected as first-team all-star cheerleaders at the MEAC competition.

With their victory at the conference competition, the A&T squad is eligible to compete at the HBCU Cheering competition March 19 and 20 in Tennessee and later at the national competition in Washington, D.C.





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